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PACIFIC  **TELESIS**
Group-Washington

March 21, 1995

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Mail Stop 1170
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Caton:

Re: *WT Docket No. 95-5*

On behalf of Pacific Bell, Nevada Bell, and Pacific Bell Mobile Services, please find enclosed an original and six copies of their "Comments" in the above proceeding.

Please stamp and return the provided copy to confirm your receipt. Please contact me should you have any questions or require additional information concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Alan F. Ciamporero

Enclosures

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

In the Matter of

Streamlining the Commission's Antenna
Structure Clearance Procedure

and

Revision of Part 17 of the Commission's
Rules Concerning Construction, Marketing,
and Lighting of Antenna Structures

WT Docket No. 95-5

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**COMMENTS OF PACIFIC BELL, NEVADA BELL,
AND PACIFIC BELL MOBILE SERVICES**

Pacific Bell, Nevada Bell and Pacific Bell Mobile Services hereby comment on the Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the above-captioned proceeding related to the registration of antennas.¹ We support the Commission's proposal to have the antenna structure owner file a registration statement. We agree that a uniform procedure with a common database listing for all antennas subject to the registration requirement, is in the public interest. We have the following comments on selected aspects of the Commission's proposal.

¹ In the Matter of Streamlining the Commission's Antenna Structure Clearance Procedure and Revision of Part 17 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Construction, Marketing, and Lighting of Antenna Structures, WT Docket No. 95-5, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, released January 20, 1995 ("NPRM").

The Commission proposes to begin registration by January 1, 1996 and suggests implementation by one of three methods: by geographic region, by antenna structure height, or upon renewal.² We would prefer that the Commission implement the new registration rules upon renewal. Pacific Bell currently has about 500 antenna structures and registering them all at one time would be quite burdensome. As the Commission notes, implementation upon renewal would spread full implementation over a ten year period and would make the registration process much easier to administer for those antenna structure owners. In those cases in which numerous services are licensed on the same structure, the license that expires first would trigger the registration.

The Commission seeks comment on whether structure owners should be permitted to register electronically and who should have access to the database.³ All licensees should have access to the database. The database should contain all of the information provided on Form 854. Electronic registration should be permitted. It will be more efficient and more accurate because it will eliminate the step of having Commission staff retype the information into a database. Any retyping of information increases the likelihood errors. Moreover, electronic registration should result in a more accurate database because the information should be more current.

The Commission requests comment on whether there should be a renewal requirement and a registration fee.⁴ Licensees already pay application and renewal fees. There

² Id. at para. 11.

³ Id. at para. 16(b) and (c).

⁴ Id. at para. (d) and (c).

is no need to require an additional fee for antenna registration. Currently, the Commission maintains two databases for antenna structure information. Having one uniform system should result in efficiencies that translate into cost savings eliminating the need for an extra fee. Since the rules require that the antenna structure owner submit revised Form 854 prior to specified modification of the antenna structure, there is no need to have a separate renewal requirement. The proposed rules already ensure that the information in the database will be kept current.

The Commission also requests comment on whether all antenna structures should be registered rather than just those that require notice of proposed construction to the Federal Aviation Administration.⁵ The Commission notes that it must often resolve complaints related to the effects of radio frequency (“RF”) energy levels at particular antenna structures and states that a comprehensive compilation of all antenna structures would increase Commission efficiency in these studies.

We strongly oppose registering all antenna structures. It would be extremely burdensome for no apparent benefit. The level of RF energy around common carrier point-to-point microwave sites has been repeatedly calculated and verified by numerous measurements to be well below levels considered safe by the current guidelines of the American National Standards Institute (“ANSI”) as well as the Commission. The low power transmitters that are used in the microwave bands (2 GHz and higher) generate RF levels in areas accessible to the public that are usually orders of magnitude below levels considered safe by ANSI guidelines. Registering antenna structures and/or calculating RF levels at these microwave sites would

⁵ Id. at (f).

serve no useful purpose. For this reason, any broader registration requirement than the one currently proposed should specifically exempt common carrier point-to-point microwave sites.

The Commission notes that because of the ongoing proceeding related to personal communications services ("PCS"), they are not proposing to amend Part 24 at this time.⁶ However, the Commission makes clear that PCS is not exempt from its proposed antenna structure registration.⁷ Furthermore, it specifically states that cellular and PCS applications must have each antenna structure registered prior to construction.⁸ This means prior to construction a PCS licensee would have to receive an FAA determination of "no hazard" and an FCC Antenna Structure Registration Number. The FAA determination takes approximately 60 days. It is not clear from the rules how long it will take to get the Antenna Structure Registration Number. We are anxious to get our PCS network set up as quickly as possible. If the Commission fails to process these registrations quickly it will compromise our ability to get to market quickly.

⁶ Id. at para. 4, n.10.

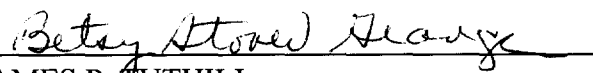
⁷ Id.

⁸ Id. at para. 13.

In conclusion, we support the creation of a uniform registration system for antennas with a single database. However, we urge the Commission to provide for electronic registration and to process the registrations as quickly as possible so that registration does not become a force for delay in providing wireless services to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

PACIFIC BELL
NEVADA BELL
PACIFIC BELL MOBILE SERVICES


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